

MEMORIAL AND RESOLUTIONS

OF A

NUMBER OF CITIZENS OF CARTERET COUNTY, N. C.,

IN RELATION

*To the improvement of the navigation of Core sound from Harbor isl-
and to the port of Beaufort.*

MAY 14, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Commerce, and ordered to be printed.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United
States in Congress assembled :*

The following memorial of the citizens of Charteret county,

RESPECTFULLY SHOWETH :

That your memorialists are deeply impressed with the necessity and importance of improving the navigation of Core sound from Harbor isl- and to the port of Beaufort, for the reasons hereinafter stated in this memorial. The operations for deepening the swash at Ocracoke, after the expenditure of vast sums of money, have been abandoned, and the navigation at that port is now worse than it was before the late attempts made by the United States engineers to improve it. It is, therefore, evident that the port of Beaufort must become the principal outlet for all the produce brought down the rivers emptying into Albemarle and Pamlico sounds. The port of Beaufort having a bar with 22 feet water, and a capacious harbor, where more than five hundred vessels can be moored in safety, during our most violent autumnal gales, offers advantages not possessed by any other seaport in this State. The largest merchant vessels can be at sea and discharge their pilots in less than one hour. A few small shoals between Harbor island and Beaufort require to be deepened, so as to enable loaded vessels from Newbern, Washington, Plymouth, Edenton, and Elizabeth City, to come to this port and go to sea without the expense and detention of lightering. It has been ascertained that the losses sustained in the first instance by the merchant, but ultimately deducted from the produce of the farmer, by the difficulties of the navigation at Ocracoke, amounts to about five hundred thousand dollars per annum ; which sum can be saved to the people of this section of the State, by the improvement solicited by your memorialists. It is the general opinion of the oldest and most intelligent men residing upon the margin of Core sound, that when the shoals are deepened by dredging, that the improve-

ment will be permanent, or continue for a great many years. All the eastern States which have vessels trading to this section of North Carolina, are deeply interested in this improvement. The numerous disasters which occur at Ocracoke, with loss of vessels and cargoes, are generally known, especially at the insurance offices in our northern cities. This is truly a national improvement. Congress has appropriated twenty thousand dollars towards the improvement of Core sound. Colonel Kearney has made the necessary surveys; a dredge-boat of great power has been built for this work at Baltimore; the lighters to carry off the excavated earth have been built at Beaufort, and are done. We, therefore, earnestly solicit Congress to have this important improvement commenced forthwith, under the direction of a competent engineer, and prosecuted with all possible diligence to its completion; and your memorialists will ever pray.

JECHONIAS PIGOTT,

Chairman of the public meeting.

JAMES MAUNEY,

Sec. of the public meeting.

A large and respectable meeting of the citizens of Carteret county was held at the court-house on Monday, March 19th, 1838, for the purpose of urging upon Congress the propriety of immediately commencing operations for deepening Core sound, from Harbor island to the port of Beaufort. The meeting was organized by appointing Jechonias Pigott, Esq., chairman, and James Mauney secretary. The objects of the meeting were fully explained by James W. Bryan, Esq. Z. W. Barren, Esq., of Beaufort county, addressed the meeting, and urged with great force the importance of this improvement, and stated that he had no doubt but what the citizens of Washington, North Carolina, would join in our effort to have this work commenced without further delay. The following gentlemen were appointed a committee to draw up a memorial and resolutions, and report to the meeting to-morrow: James Mauney, James W. Bryan, John F. Jones, Isaac Hellen, James W. Hunt, Benjamin Lecraft, Thomas Marshall, Isaac Ramsey, Jonas Mace, Wallace D. Styrer, Asa Canaday, Ambrose Jones, and Elijah S. Bell.

The meeting was then adjourned until to-morrow, 4 o'clock, P. M.

A meeting of the citizens of Carteret county was held at the court-house, the 20th day of March, 1838, pursuant to adjournment.

The chairman called the meeting to order. The committee appointed to draw up a memorial to Congress then reported said memorial; which was unanimously adopted.

The following resolutions were then read and adopted:

Resolved, That the memorial to Congress be signed by the chairman and secretary, and one copy forwarded to the Senators from this State, and one copy to our Representative in Congress from this district.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting and the memorial to Congress be published in the Newbern Spectator.

The meeting was then adjourned sine die.

JECHONIAS PIGOTT, *Chairman.*

JAMES MAUNEY, *Secretary.*